

### **R12-4-603. Oral Proceedings Before the Commission**

- A.** For the purposes of this Section, "matter" or "proceeding" means any contested case, appealable agency action, rule or review petition hearing, rulemaking proceeding, or any public input at a Commission meeting.
- B.** The Commission may allow an oral proceeding on any matter. At an oral proceeding:
  - 1. The Chair is responsible for conducting the proceeding. If an individual wants to speak, the individual shall first request and be granted permission by the Chair.
  - 2. Depending on the nature of the proceeding, the Chair may administer an oath to a witness before receiving testimony.
  - 3. The Chair may order the removal of any individual who is disrupting the proceeding.
  - 4. Based on the amount of time available, the Chair may limit the number of presentations or the time for testimony regarding a particular issue and shall prohibit irrelevant or immaterial testimony.
  - 5. Technical rules of evidence do not apply to an oral proceeding, and no informality in any proceeding or in the manner of taking testimony invalidates any order, decision, or rule made by the Commission.
- C.** The Commission authorizes the Director to designate a hearing officer for oral proceedings to take public input on proposed rulemaking. The hearing officer has the same authority as the Chair in conducting oral proceedings, as provided in this Section.
- D.** The Commission authorizes the Director to continue a scheduled proceeding to a later Commission meeting. To request a continuance, a petitioner shall:
  - 1. Deliver the request to the Director no later than 24 hours before the scheduled proceeding;
  - 2. Demonstrate that the proceeding has not been continued more than twice; and
  - 3. Demonstrate good cause for the continuance.